

Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards, 2010
Proposed Revisions Approved by the Commission on School Accreditation
September 13, 2011
Approved by the State Board of Education
October 21, 2011

20. The school district requires each student, in order to receive a high school diploma, to have met the requirements established by its local board of education and by the State Board of Education. {MS Code 37-16-7} (SB Policy 3800)
- 20.1 Each student receiving a standard high school diploma has earned the minimum number of Carnegie units as specified in Appendix A. (See Appendix A.) (SB Policies 2902 and 2903) Students receiving a standard diploma may select from three graduation pathways as specified by the local school district's graduation requirements.
- Entering ninth graders in 2005-2006 and thereafter (seniors of school year 2008-2009 and later) are required to have a minimum of 21 Carnegie units as specified in Appendix A-1.
 - Entering ninth graders in 2008-2009 and thereafter (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) are required to have a minimum of 24 Carnegie units as specified in Appendix A-2, unless their parent/guardian requests to opt the student out of Appendix A-2 requirements. This student would be required to complete the graduation requirements specified in A-1.
 - Entering eleventh graders in 2010-2011 and thereafter (seniors of school year 2011-2012 and later) who chose the Career Pathway Option are required to earn the minimum graduation requirements specified in Appendix A-3. (MS Code 37-16-17)
 - Beginning in school year 2011-2012, all eighth grade students are required to have an Individualized Career and Academic Plan (iCAP) prior to exiting the eighth grade.
- 20.2 Each student receiving a standard diploma has achieved a passing score on each of the required high school exit examinations. {MS Code-37-16-7} (SB Policy 3800)
- 20.3 Each student who has completed the secondary curriculum for special education may be issued a special diploma or certificate of completion, which states: "This student has successfully completed an Individualized Education Program." {MS Code 37-16-11(1)}
- 20.4 The student who fails to meet the graduation requirements is not permitted to participate in the graduation exercises.
- 20.5 Each student with disabilities receiving a Mississippi Occupational Diploma has successfully completed all minimum requirements established by the State Board of Education. {MS Code 37-16-11(2)} (See Appendix G.)

Note: Carnegie units will be awarded in the eighth grade for the following courses: Algebra I, Pre-algebra, Transition to Algebra, Computer Discovery, Geometry, ICT II (Information & Communication Technology), First Year Foreign Language, and Second Year Foreign Language provided course content is the same as the high school course.

Appendix A-3

CAREER PATHWAY OPTION SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012

In 2010, Mississippi state policymakers passed legislation to create multiple pathways to a standard diploma. The 2010 legislative actions created a career pathway to a standard diploma, with the goal of improving Mississippi graduation rates and providing students with career and technical training that prepare students for postsecondary credential or certification programs and employable workplace skills. This legislative change created new section 37-16-17, Mississippi code of 1972, to provide for high school career option programs and career track curricula for students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

Curriculum Area	Carnegie Units	Required Subjects
English	4 ¹	English I English II
Mathematics	3 ²	Algebra I
Science	3 ³	Biology I
Social Studies	3 ^{4,5}	1 U.S. History ½ U.S. Government ½ Mississippi Studies
Health and Physical Education	½ ⁶	½ Comprehensive Health, or ½ Family and Individual Health, or ½ Physical Education
Career and Technical	4 ⁷	(Selected from Student's Program of Study)
Integrated Technology	1 ⁸	Computer Discovery, ICT II, 9 th STEM, or Computer Applications and Keyboarding
Additional Electives	2 ½ ⁹	Courses selected from the student's approved program of study
Total Units Required	21 ¹⁰	

Mississippi's Institution of Higher Learning requirements differ from minimum graduation requirements for this diploma pathway.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
Career Pathway Option

SENIORS OF SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012

¹ Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing shall not be included in the four English courses required for graduation. The two additional English credits must be from the student's program of study which includes Technical Writing, Creative Writing, English III, English IV, or any college-level dual credit courses.

² Compensatory Mathematics may not be included in the three mathematics courses required for graduation. Effective with eighth graders of 2008-2009, Pre-Algebra and Transition to Algebra may not be taken after a student completes Algebra I. For students pursuing the Career Pathway Graduation Option, at least one of the required mathematics courses must be above Algebra I and selected from the student's program of study. The allowable mathematics courses that can be taken which are higher than Algebra I are: Geometry, Algebra II, Survey of Mathematical Topics, Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Statistics, and AP Statistics, or any college-level dual credit courses. Effective with the eighth graders of 2004-2005, Pre-Algebra, Transition to Algebra, and Algebra I, may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit. Effective with the eighth graders of 2008-2009, Geometry may be taken in the eighth grade for Carnegie unit credit.

³ For students pursuing the Career Pathway Graduation Option, at least one of the required science courses must be above Biology I and selected from the student's program of study. If a student's program of study allows, one unit may be in Concepts of Agriscience (AEST). A second science unit may be earned by completing a two course sequence selected from the following three options: Science of Agricultural Animals, Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environment. Two units may be in the following courses if the student completes the 2-course sequence: Agriscience I & II; Allied Health I & II; Health Science I & II, Aquaculture I & II; Forestry I & II; Horticulture I & II; Polymer Science I & II; Technology Applications I & II and Engineering I & II.

⁴ Advanced placement U.S. History is accepted in lieu of the required U.S. History 1877 to Present. The third social studies credit should be selected based on the student's program of study.

⁵ The credit earned for a State/Local Government course in any other state by an out-of-state transfer student who enters after the sophomore year can stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies or Mississippi State and Local Government. If the transfer student took a State/Local Government course in a grade level that did not award Carnegie unit credit, then any other ½ unit social studies course may be accepted. An out-of-state student who transfers after the junior year may substitute any other ½ unit social studies course. Credit earned for the first year of Marketing and Economics (Vocational) may be accepted in lieu of ½ unit in Economics.

⁶ Credit earned in Allied Health I/Health Science I may be accepted in lieu of Comprehensive Health or Family and Individual Health to meet the graduation requirement for ½ Carnegie unit in Health. Interscholastic athletic activities, band, and ROTC if they meet the instructional requirements specified in the *Fitness through Physical Education Framework* may also be accepted.

⁷ Career and Technical (CTE) courses must be based on the student's program of study and should include dual credit/dual enrollment options as found in Section 37-15-38 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

⁸ Evidence of proficiency in technology is accepted in lieu of the required courses if the student earns one unit in a technology-rich academic or career technical course related to their program of study.

⁹ Electives must be selected from courses related to the student's program of study. Credits earned not approved for that student's program of study will not be counted toward graduation requirements.

¹⁰ See the following web site for information concerning equivalency course allowances for all career and technical education and how to record information on a student's transcript. (TBA)